

Master Composter Training

Are you an agent of change? The Master Composter program is designed to spread the word about backyard composting in Santa Clara County. You can become a composting agent of change by participating in the Master Composter Volunteer training program. The next training will take place January 6 through March 10, 2010. The class meets Wednesday evenings from 6:30 – 9 in San Jose and on four Saturday mornings 8:30-noon at various locations (tours etc). There is a \$50 materials fee for this course and all the training materials are included. The application deadline is Tuesday, November 10. Visit www.ReduceWaste.org for more information.



Green Shopping: The Eco-friendly Way to Shop

Americans throw away 25% more trash during the Thanksgiving to New Year's holiday period than any other time of year. The extra waste amounts to 25 million tons of garbage. As the holiday season kicks into high gear, take a minute to consider ways that you can reduce the impact that your shopping and gift giving habits have on our planet.

Did you know that 10 cents of every shopping dollar is used to pay for packaging? One of the major keys for shopping green is to buy items with the least amount of packaging possible.

To do this, simply avoid individual packaging and instead buy in bulk. You can then individually wrap each item using old posters, comics, maps or kids' art work. This helps you avoid extra packaging, saves you money on gift wrap, and helps the environment by reducing excess waste. Also, buying products in containers that you know you will be able to recycle will help reduce your amount of waste.

When buying toys or items that require batteries, remember to buy rechargeable batteries to go with them. You can save \$200 a year and help keep hazardous materials out of the landfill just by using rechargeable batteries.

There are many items that help protect the environment that make great gifts. Compact fluorescent bulbs, reusable shopping bags and transit coupons are just a few ideas. Some other easy ways to greener shopping are to use a reusable mug for coffee on the go and to always remember to bring-your-own-bag when shopping.

And finally, while we always encourage everyone to frequent our wonderful local merchants, we also encourage you to rethink taking longer shopping trips to other communities for those items not available in Morgan Hill. Try shopping online instead. This can be faster and easier than driving and reduces your carbon emissions in the process.

Happy Eco-Shopping!

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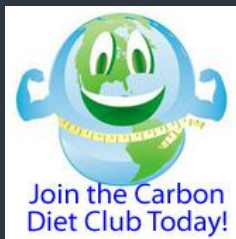
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Next Carbon Diet Club Starts November 5th

Join the next Carbon Diet Club starting on November 5th at 6:30 pm and learn how you can save money and help the environment! In just 30 days, you can reduce your carbon footprint by 5,000 pounds! In three fun meetings, you will learn how to reduce your impact on climate change and reduce your electricity costs. You'll receive numerous tools, such as a workbook to track your progress, reusable shopping bags, shower timers and much more. You can also find out if your home qualifies for a free energy audit! The Club meets face-to-face three times to discuss action items and to help each team member reach their reduction targets. Join us and make a difference! It's free, easy and fun!

Sign up by calling 778-6480 or e-mailing environ@morganhill.ca.gov.

Give An Experience

This holiday season, take a break from all that shopping and wrapping. Give an experience and create a cherished memory! Experience gifts are for everyone – attending a play, concert, sporting event, or movie can create lasting memories. Consider a season pass to the Aquatics Center or a gift certificate for City recreation classes and programs, passes to museums or parks, gift certificates for a massage, kayak rental or restaurant, or even a shopping mall gift card.

The choices are endless! Enjoy the holidays knowing you've given thoughtful gifts to your friends and loved ones and reduced waste!

Recycle That Pumpkin! 30% of our waste stream consists of food waste and food soiled paper. City of Morgan Hill residents can easily recycle their food waste, including that Halloween pumpkin! Just place your food waste in your yard trimmings cart and Recology South Valley will keep it away from the landfill – by turning it into compost.



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Name Change for South Valley Disposal & Recycling

South Valley Disposal &

Recycling has been providing solid waste services to the community for decades.

Effective September 15, 2009, they have changed their name to



Recology South Valley. While their bills and trucks may look a bit different, they will still be providing the same services with the same employees in Morgan Hill.



Halloween Costume Collection is Back!

November 2nd through the 6th

The Environmental Programs Division will hold their Sixth Annual Halloween Costume Collection. This is your chance to "recycle" those un-needed costumes. Bring your gently used costumes to the Community and Cultural Center between 8am-5pm. The costumes will be distributed to less fortunate children for next Halloween. Everyone who brings a costume gets a special surprise!

This Month's Green Living Tip:

Capture Shower Water

By simply placing a bucket near your shower, you can save Greywater (any and all wash water that can be collected from showers) and use it to water plants. When waiting for the water to heat up in the shower, just slide the bucket in to collect that extra water and use it in the garden. In addition to lowering water usage by collecting



unused shower water, you can run your dishwasher and washing machine only when completely full, and try new waterless car washing products. Saving water not only helps lower your water bill, but is also another easy way to protect our beautiful environment.